

cujus tamen rei causas, neque ipse ego indagavi, neque memini, amicos unquam indagavisse. Jam, ita farmentis cavernam obruerunt accolæ, ut vix adiri possit amplius. Quin & avicularum funera rariora sunt hodie, quam fuerunt olim: quod equidem profundius, quam antea, manantibus aquis adtribuerim. Hæc de his, hætenus.

IV. An Account of a very extraordinary Tumour in the Knee of a Person, whose Leg was taken off by Mr. Jer. Peirce, Surgeon at Bath; communicated in a Letter to Dr. Mead, Physician to His MAJESTY, and Fellow of the College of Physicians, and of the Royal Society, London.

S I R,

Bath, June 11. 1737.

AS no one has been more conversant with the surprising Disorders to which Men are liable, or takes a greater Pleasure in their Relief, than yourself, so I flatter myself the following Case cannot fail of being acceptable to you.

William Hedges of Stratton in Somersetshire, a Farmer's Son, of 25 Years of Age, of a muscular healthy Habit, having never known any kind of Disease; about eight Years since first observed a small Swelling on his Right Leg near the superior Epiphysis of the Tibia, which (to use his own Terms) he called a Splint, about the Bigness of a split Horse-bean. As he was not conscious of any Bruise on the Part, and
as

as it was wholly free from Pain, so the only Reason he had to regard it, was from its constant Increase, which during the two first Years was very slow; but afterwards it increas'd so fast (though without Pain) as to render him altogether incapable of Labour from the time of Hay-Harvest 1735.—

Upon taking off the Limb in *May* last, I found it weighed, with the Leg and Foot, Sixty-nine Pounds, which (to the best of my Remembrance) is Twenty-seven more than the Leg some Years since taken off at *St. Bartholomew's* Hospital by *Mr. Gay*, for the like Disorder. The Operation itself afforded nothing uncommon, except the Quantity of recurrent Blood, which, however greater than usual, seem'd proportional to the increased Bulk of the Part.

Upon examining this surprising Tumour, the adjacent Muscles were found destitute of their fibrous and fleshy Appearance (probably from the Pressure, and great Extension, which they had suffer'd, and the little Motion which for some Years they had employ'd upon the *Tarsus* and Toes); but the *Fascia* and common Membranes of the Muscles, being greatly thickened and callous, adhered to the subjacent Tumour; and upon removing this callous Integument, the Tumour appear'd cover'd with great Quantities of Blood-vessels, much distended, and of a Colour more intensely red than natural.—

The Tumour itself was Cartilaginous for the Space of half an Inch from its external Surface; from whence it form'd numberless bony Substances of various Forms, Colours, and Consistences, which (growing more and more numerous, as they lay deeper) at last form'd a continual Substance com-

pletely ossify'd: In the Centre of this bony Substance we found about a Quart of mucilaginous Liquor, no ways fetid, (though it was then ten Days from the Operation) whose Colour and Consistence nearly resembled that of *Linseed Oil*; in which we observ'd many little bony Substances loose and floating, similar to many others adhering to the internal Surface of the Cavity, all which had nearly the Appearance of those irregular Incrustations, which in hollow Rocks are sometimes made by the dropping of petrifying Waters. After the Operation, every Circumstance of the Cure proceeded as I could wish, and the Stump is now healed.

It seems well worth observing, that the Parts above the Tumour were very little alter'd from their natural State. The Cartilaginous Extremity of the *Femur* was perfectly smooth; nor had the *Rotula* suffer'd any other Injury except the Ossification of the Ligament by which it is fixed to the *Tibia*; but the superior Extremity of the *Fibula* was wholly lost in the Tumour.

May we not justly admire the Goodness of a Constitution, which could bear such enormous Extensions in the Integuments, the Tendinous *Fascia*, and even the Bone itself, without Pain and Inflammation? Or can we sufficiently wonder, that the Fluids should be so little disposed to putrify, as to bear so great a Diminution in their Motion, and for so long Time, without vitiating the Constitution, or tainting even the Parts affected? Herewith (Sir) I beg your Acceptance of two Portraits of this surprising Case (See T A B. II.): The first Figure represents the Limb immediately after the Operation; the 2^d Figure shews the

the Tumour as opened : In both the Artift has fo far employed his Care and Skill, as well in preferving the juft Dimensions as in the Colours and Appearances, that I am left only to wifh, that in the Defcription, which I have made, my Pen had not fallen fhort of his Pencil.—I am, with the greateft Refpect,

S I R,

*Your moft obliged
humble Servant,*

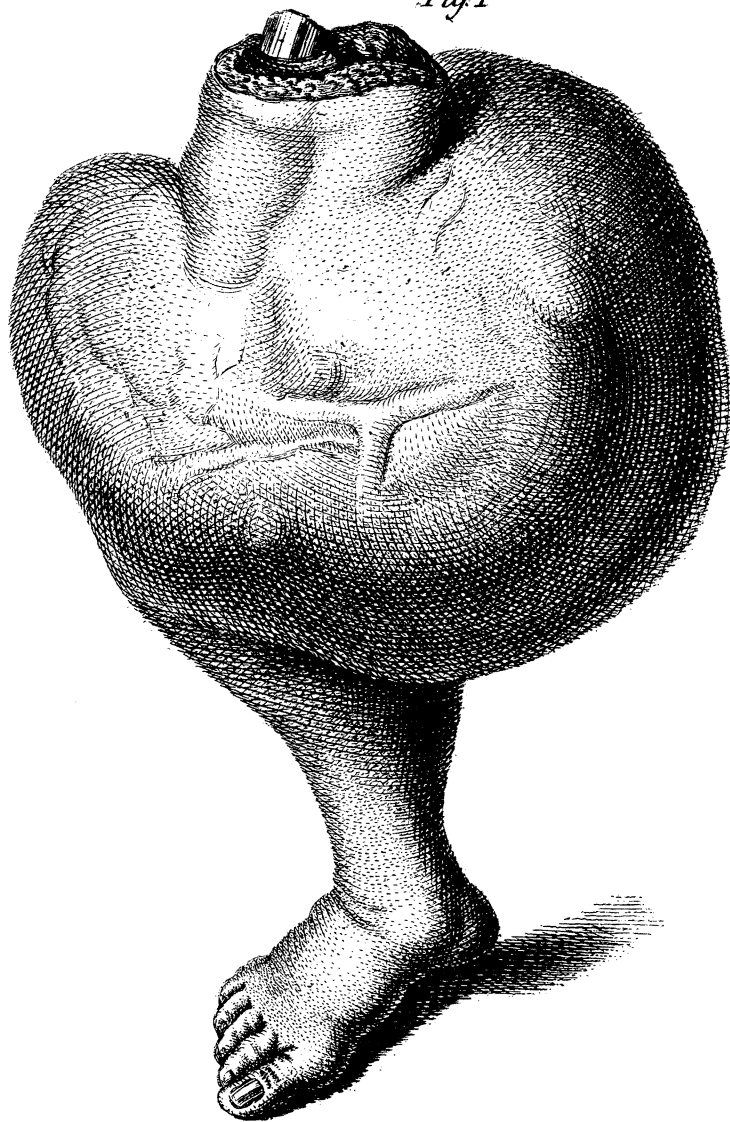
Jer. Peirce.

V. *An Experiment concerning the Spirit of Coals, being part of a Letter to the Hon. Rob. Boyle, Esq; from the late Rev. John Clayton, D. D. communicated by the Right Rev. Father in God Robert Lord Bishop of Corke to the Right Hon. John Earl of Egmont, F. R. S.*

— **H**AVING feen a Ditch within two Miles from *Wigan* in *Lancashire*, wherein the Water would feemingly burn like Brandy, the Flame of which was fo fierce, that feveral Strangers have boiled Eggs over it ; the People thereabouts indeed affirm, that about 30 Years ago it would have boiled a Piece of Beef ; and that whereas much Rain formerly made it burn much fiercer, now after Rain it would fcarce burn at all. It was after a long-con-

Phil. Trans. N^o 452.

Fig 1



T. Ross pinxt.

A Scale of Inches

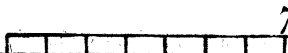
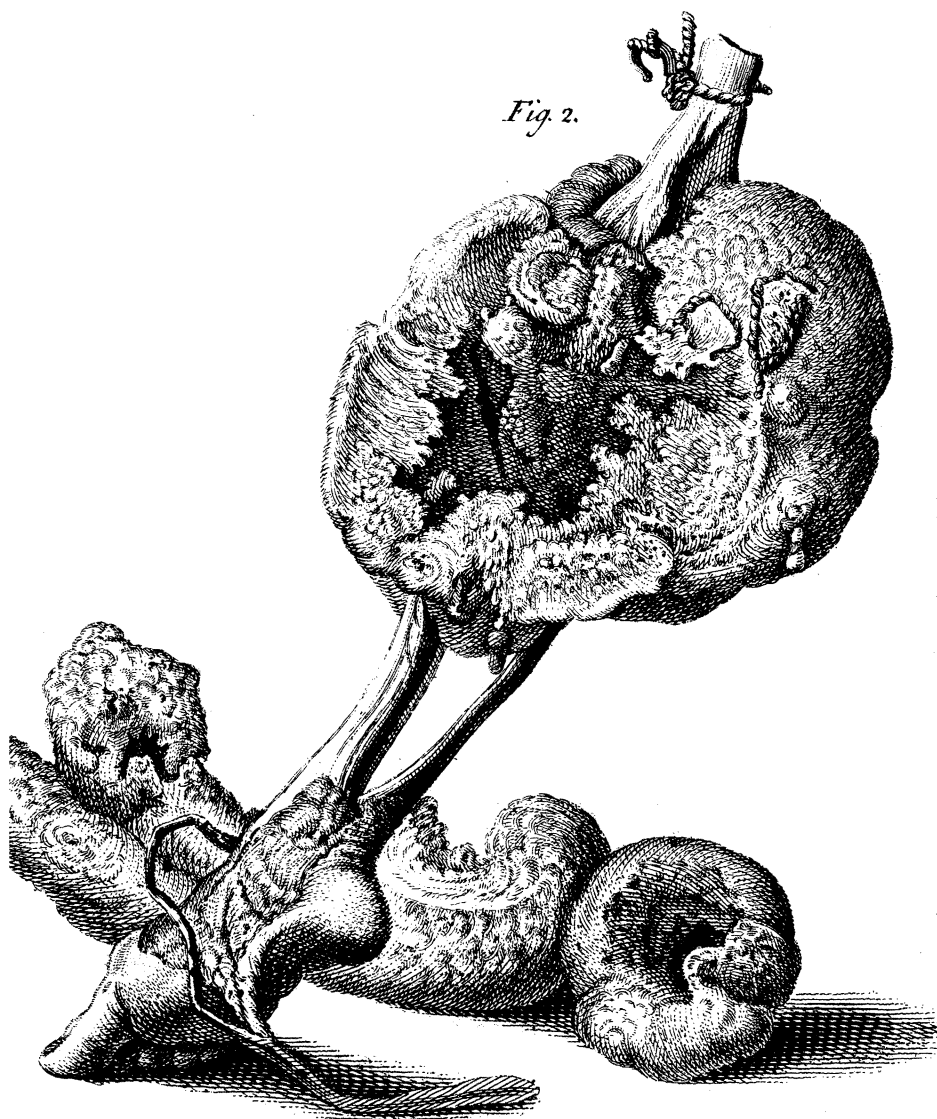


Fig. 2.



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J. Mynde deli et Sculp^t

Fig 1

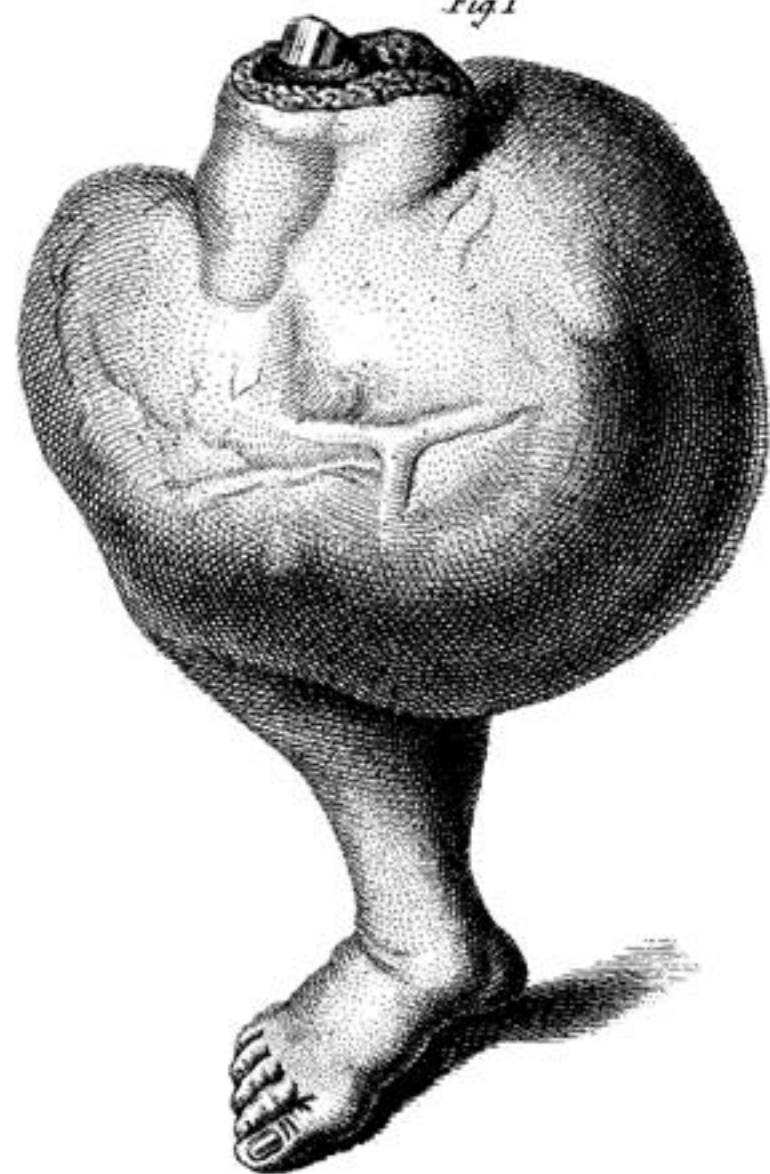
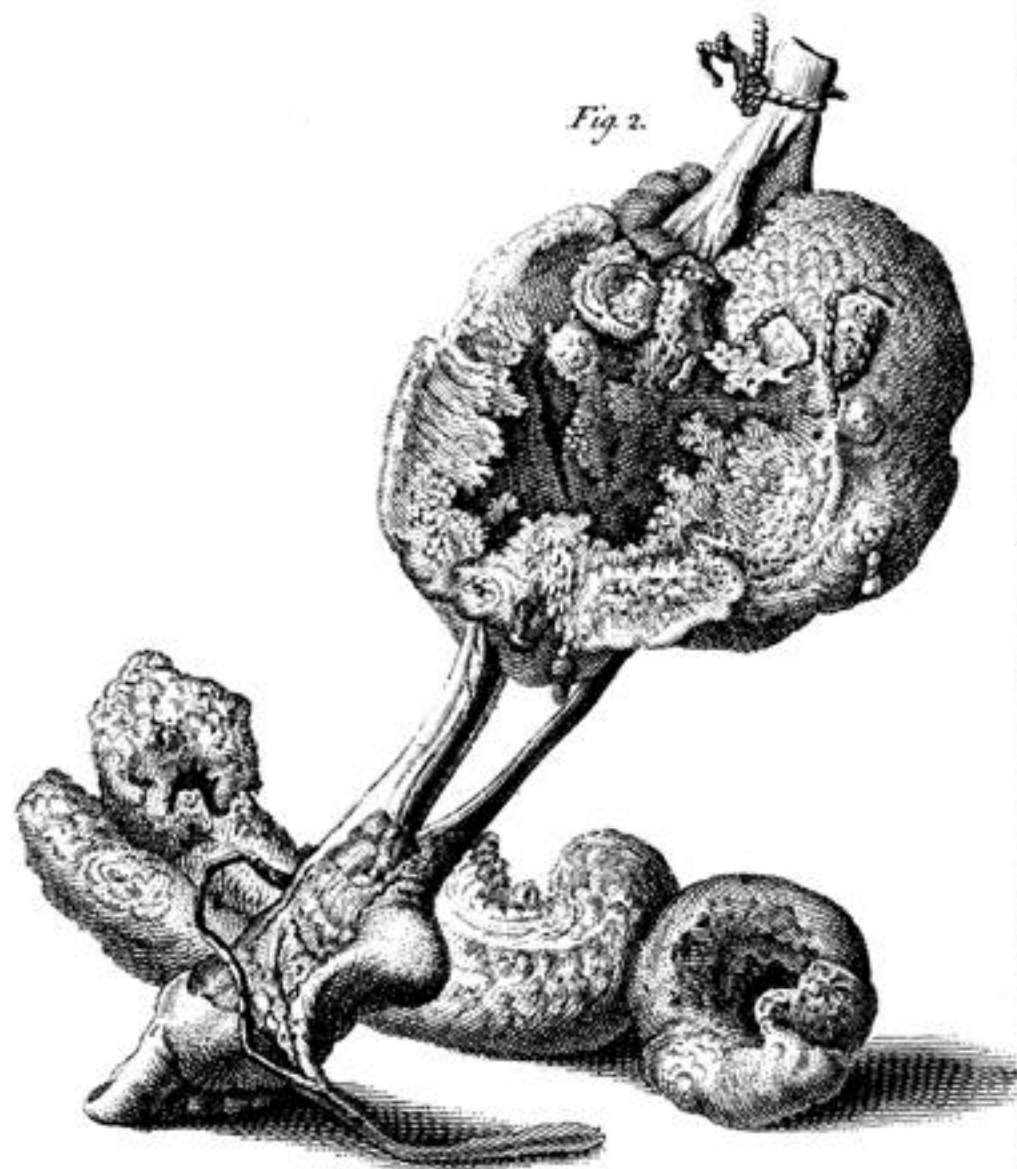
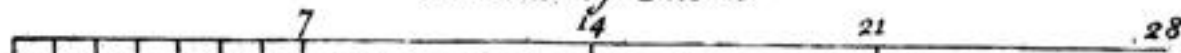


Fig 2



A Scale of Inches

T. Ross pinxit.



J. Mynde deli et Sculp^t.